(c) if so, whether there is proposal for conversion of these lines into broad gauge;

(d) whether there is a plan for gauge conversion of rail lines from Gonda to Anandnagar in North-Eastern Railways; and

(e) if so, by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The gauge conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines has been taken up since April, 1992 under "Project Unigauge" in a progressive manner.

(d) and (e) The gauge conversion of Gonda-Anandnagar is already in progress as a part of Gonda-Gorakhpur loop with Anandnagar-Nautanwa gauge conversion project. On this project, Gorakhpur-Anandnagar-Nautanwa gauge conversion project. On this project, Gorakhpur-Anandnagar-Nautanwa has already been completed. The balance portion from Gonda to Anandnagar would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Bridge over Brahmaputra river at Saraighat

1025. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has conducted survey for the second rail-cum-road bridge over river Brahmaputra at Saraighat;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made thereof;

(c) whether Government of Assam has represented for converting the proposed road bridge at Saraighat under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) to a rail-cum-road bridge; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and target set with total allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) A survey for second rail bridge adjacent to existing Saraighat rail-cum-road bridge was completed in 2008-09. As per the survey, the cost of the proposal was worked out as Rs. 300.67 crore. Chief Minister, Assam had written in this regard. Prima facie, it was considered that the existing broad gauge lines via Saraighat bridge and via Jogighopa bridge along with gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek and new line with Bogibeel bridge would be able to meet the traffic requirement.

Incident of stone pelting on Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express

1026. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 15th September, 2009 Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express was stoned at Ghoranda station near Panipat district in Haryana;

(b) whether it is also a fact that window panes of three coaches of the train were broken as a result of throwing of stones by some miscreants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the miscreants to ensure that such incidents do not occur again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 15.09.2009 an incident of stone pelting on train no. 2030 Dn. (Amritsar-New Delhi Sawarn Shatabdi Express) was reported in which window panes of 03 coaches were broken.

(d) A case *vide* crime no. 79/09 U/s 152 Railways Act was registered by GRPS/Panipat on 17.09.2009 and 02 boys were arrested. Effective patrolling and raids are being conducted in vulnerable sections and train escorting staff is briefed/to keep watch.

Loss to railway property

1027. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway property worth several crores of rupees was gutted and hundreds of passengers escaped getting roasted when a mob of locals went berserk and torched five coaches of Mahananda Express at Hathras Junction on 30th September, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the loss suffered by Railways in that incident; and

(c) whether Government has arrested some persons found involved in that incident and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 30.09.2009 local people and supporters of organizations/unions agitated demanding stoppage of Gomti and Magadh Express trains at Hathras. During the course of agitation, train no. 4083 (Mahananda Express) was stopped and hose pipe was disconnected due to which the train could not proceed ahead. The passengers were detrained safely and security arrangements were made by the civil/local police/Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) authorities. The agitators burnt 06 sleepers and 05 general bogies causing loss amounting to Rs. 1,83,56,000/-.

(c) A case *vide* crime no. 155/09 U/s 147, 148, 336, 427, 436, 307, 353, 332 IPC and 151, 152 Railways Act and Government Property Damage Act was registered by GRPS/Hathras against 82 offenders out of which 47 were arrested.

Incidents of damage to railways property

1028. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that damaging railway property and stone pelting on trains have been happening regularly across the country and the same are not being reported;